

THE FRENCH FASHIONS

Three Very Exquisite Parisian Modes
For The Early Spring.

CREAM AND WHITE CONFECTIONS.

Ball Gowns Are Profusely Trimmed
With Flowers Artistically Adapted—A Model Frock in Black and
Scarlet—Jewels Are No Longer
Worn With High Neck Bodices.

Paris, Feb. 1.—It appears that dancing as a polite pastime is going out of fashion. I don't know anything about the truth of this, but I hear that it is said. I know only that someone has just published a book in London on the decline of dancing, and that someone else has explained the sole trouble to lie with men, who come to the ballroom doors unwilling to exert themselves, which possibly one might suspect to be a symptom, but hardly an excuse. Men are not more indolent than they were. I know also that Sir Augustus Harris has lately remarked with some contempt that the modern ballroom is a true gauge of contemporary taste; and that in Paris the cotillon has degenerated into a childish romp, in which the gentlemen trot in on paper mache hobby-horses, and break a pasteboard lance for the lady. It would seem that the amateurs of poetry of motion have some reason to complain.

BALL TOILETS.
But this does not mean that there are no more balls and no more ball gowns.



Dinner Gown of Silk and Sat.

Quite otherwise. There will be the fiction of balls till long after society has forgotten the little it knew about dancing, till the women have all joined the men in the doorway and yielded the floor to some hired Carmencita. And this present is the high season and the apothecic moment of the ball gown.

And some of the latest gowns show a combination of tints that for refinement and subtlety could do credit to a master painter. One of the combinations is of pure white and cream white. This contrast deepens the pure white to silvery gray, and the cream to flaxen yellow. The effect is exquisite, a sort of corollary to the figure and fastened behind with two loops of the same that stand out from the waist. Sable edges the top of the belt and the top of the lops. The skirt is of pink satin. Another is a blouse of white mousseline de soie over white, with a skirt of the same mousseline over pink. The décolleté is bordered with a wide plaited ruffle of pink roses, and there is a wide pink satin belt fastened behind with two broad standing loops, having a row of pink roses between them. The mousseline skirt is side plaited and loose from the lining, and the bottom is finished with a narrow band of white ribbon folded inside the hem.

This sleeves of these gowns contain plenty of material, but are no longer stuffed out with horchairs; the tendency of all sleeves being to decrease in size. Though some journals show models of ball dress where the sleeves fall off the shoulder and the bodice is held up by a strap, these ridiculous designs are not worn by women of taste, and are not made in the best dressmaking houses.

As seen in the models above, it is very much the fashion to make the skirt only of the silk and the bodice of a mingling of chiffons and lace. The preferred materials are plain satin, flowered silk and more, the latter extremely fashionable for evening dress. Few flowers are employed and these are subdued, so as to form a true decorative effect. Instances in the flower-edged ruffles above, where all the blossoms are alike, and no attempt is made to imitate nature. This is an improvement in art.

FLOWER DECORATIONS.

Very notable is the absence of flowers arranged in natural garlands, sprays, etc., such as used to be the chief garniture of evening dress. Few flowers are employed and these are subdued, so as to form a true decorative effect. Instances in the flower-edged ruffles above, where all the blossoms are alike, and no attempt is made to imitate nature. This is an improvement in art.

that is worth while to cite. You look at the natural flower, and they give you no further sensation, but you look at these ruffles, which, whatever they might be made of, are correct decorations, and you experience a delicious surprise to find that they are composed of flowers. The principle is easy. This paragraph may seem usefully with the account of a dinner gown easily copied in extremely good taste. It is of black brussels, net, or any other thin black material mounted over red silk. The black skirt is entirely in side plaits, and falls loose from the silk; the blouse has a square neck and elbow sleeves, and droops slightly over the belt all round. The trimming is masseterie of garnet and red sequins. It makes lines down the skirt at intervals all round, and lines down the sleeves, and is richly massed on the blouse. This red trimming could be replaced with net.

"An' you've no choice, at all?" queried Maureen.

Maureen pursed her pretty lips. They were lost to Ballycarnan Church now, and the bells had ceased ringing.

"N-no—I've no choice. I did think I liked Bryan better; but then Denny came back from New York, and he took me out to America. But, where's the use o' talkin'?" If the spell is as good as you say, the well will show be the man to take."

"Aye, that it will," Maureen answered. "My ould grandmother was a wise woman, Maureen. You be at St. Patrick's well to-night when the clock strikes 12 an' 'tis myself that wishes you good luck, alannah."

Maureen went chucking across the

but then Denny came back from New York. Moreover, she had added that Denny "knew more in a day than Bryan did in a year," and dwelt upon Bryan's promise to take her to rich America. Clearly, though Maureen, the girl secretly favored Denny Dowlan. Therefore, it was right that Denny she should have.

The die was cast, and Maureen, getting down from his horse, sent, beckoned the lucky Denny aside.

"Denny avie," he said, "you're after Maureen O'Hara?"

"You can bet I am," answered Denny. "Very well, the bouchal. I'll give you a spell to win her. Would your ear close?"

Then the sheannachie unfolded to young Nowlan a wonderful phisghe, by which he was to look into the waters of St. Patrick's well by midnight and there behold the face of his true love. New Denny was skeptical as regarded phisghe, but he shared the local respect for Maureen and took care not to let Maureen see him laughing in his sleeve at this utterly ridiculous way of winning Maureen. Thus it came to pass that old Maureen went home, sure of the success of his plan and determined to be a third party by St. Patrick's well.



Pink Moire and Pompadour Silk.

that night, while Denny Nowlan, laughing, told the story of the proposed spell to the churchyard loungers.

"You go in my place, Bryan," said Denny to his rival. "For my part I prefer to court Maureen by her father's turf fire."

Bryan Kavanagh was the only one present who did not join in the laughter. He was thinking over the sheannachie's spell.

Old Maureen crouched in the corner behind the wall that Patrick's night as pretty Maureen came faltering up the path. He heard her repeat the name of St. Patrick thrice, kneeling to dip her fingers in the water, and noticed with a start that the "fair" blackbird, frightened from its nest, flapped through the branches even as he had promised. Then he saw Maureen fix her eyes steadily upon the moonlit surface of the well.

"Clang!"

Out chimed the clock from Castle Carmichael, rising clearly through the stillness of midnight, waking the watch-dogs with its brizzen voice. At the twelfth stroke there was a rustling in the bracken and someone stole past Maureen's hiding place.

"Eyah!" laughed the sheannachie, "there goes Denny Nowlan."

Next moment he uttered an exclamation of astonishment for a tall figure that loomed over the wall in the moonlight did not belong to Denny Nowlan, but to Bryan Kavanagh!

There was a startled cry and Maureen turned from the pale reflection of Bryan's face in the water to find herself clasped in the strong arms of a real, possible Bryan.

"Ah, then Bryan darling!" so Maureen heard her say, "it's myself is glad you've come. Sure, I was afraid it would be Denny Nowlan."

As the astonished sheannachie crept out of his lair and down the hillside, all he could say to himself was: "Worra! worra! Saint Patrick is a better match-maker than me, after all!"

SHORT WAISTS FOR SPRING.

They Are Here in a Bewildering Variety of Colors and Materials.

Almost every kind of material is used for the new short waists, from sheer fine mousseline de soie to inexpensive percales and lawn. The newest and most expensive are of the imported mousseline de soie, a material woven as fine as India linen lawn, and in the most delicate and artistic of colors. The Dresden patterns are very popular in this exquisite fabric, especially, says the New York World, in dainty, cool-looking summer shades.

A short waist of Dresden mousseline de soie in a pattern of pale yellow daisies, finished with stiff collar and cuffs of daisies, yellow cambric, is one of the person's new waists. Equally attractive in the eyes of the woman is the forget-me-not waist. A sheer dotted mull ground is covered thickly with tiny sprays of pale blue forget-me-nots, with the inevitable finish of laundered collar and cuffs, in this instance in pale blue cambric.

Waists, varying out effects in rose color, lavender and fern-green, are also shown in mousseline de soie and mull. Bright-colored waists will be a special feature this spring, but the colors are so deftly managed as to be effective without the garish glare of the red and yellow confections of last year.

Grass-green shirt waists, plain, striped, dotted and embroidered, are shown in a great variety of styles and prices. The embroidered ones are, as a rule, imported French novelties, dashing in effect and expensive.

The simpler styles are neatly made, usually in the linen color, with collars and cuffs in white, black, linen color or delicate shades of blue and pink. The price is from \$2.50 to \$7, according to the quality of material used.

All of the finest short waists this season are made with adjustable collars and cuffs. The waist proper is done up with buttons of starch and the collars and cuffs are laundered in the stiffest fashion.

HOOD'S PILLS.

HOOD'S PILLS are purely vegetable and do not purge, pain or gripe. All druggists, 25c.

TOWN OF SUFFOLK

A LARGE MILL BURNED

The Virginia Manufacturing Co's Plant at Suffolk Entirely Consumed by Fire.

THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETS SECRETLY.

The Reception of Reid's Ferry Bridge—The Structure Was First Built in 1869—Many Matters Pertaining to Affairs of Persons and Things Which Will Prove Interesting.

Suffolk, Va., March 12.—(Special.)—A disastrous fire occurred at 10:30 o'clock to-day at the plant of the Virginia Manufacturing Company, the largest manufacturers of butter dishes, fruit packages, etc., in Virginia, and one of the best equipped plants in the country. Owing to the nature of the loss and quantity of packages consumed no accurate estimate can be placed without an examination of books, but a conservative appropriation is \$15,000, which is partially covered by insurance in New York Lloyds.

The blaze started in a work-shop situated on the east end of a storage warehouse, and owing to the inflammable nature of material consumed, rapidly spread to the warehouse, a wood structure, 50x200 feet, which was stored nearly full of fruit packages and crates. The department arrived promptly, but were handicapped in action by reason of the fact that the nearest live water plug was 1,500 feet distant, and a second trip of the hose cart to the engine-house was necessary before the line was laid. The Suffolk Sawmill Company tendered the use of their equipment for extinguishing fire, but the results were only partially effectual.

When the fire department got to work there was no hope of saving the warehouse or contents, and their efforts were directed toward preventing the flames reaching the main buildings and machinery, and the plants or adjacent lumber concerns. Southern Lumber Company and Suffolk Sawmill Company—whose buildings and lumber yards cover several acres of the Milling district. The fire was prevented from spreading further. Huge clouds of dense, black smoke have been issuing from the burning timbers all day.

The packages burned, over 100 car loads, represent the output of the plant for several weeks. They were about ready for shipment and will soon be needed by consumers, especially the stored crates. It is a matter of congratulation that the main buildings were saved, as their destruction would have thrown out of employment several hundred workmen. The fire's origin is

a matter of conjecture. It is not known whether the spark which did the work was emitted from one of the plant's chimneys or from a passing train. Little credence is given to the theory that an incendiary is responsible.

COUNCIL MEETS SECRETLY.—The Town Council will ultimately result in the disposition of the Treasury investigation. The meeting was very secret and the exact proceedings can not now be made known, but the public will be consoled to know that they are doing something, or at least trying. Mayor Brewer informed the Virginian's representative just before the meeting, that it is more expedient to keep their proceedings and proposed action from the other side, but says all will be made public sometime. I was informed to-day by one of Major Wright's attorneys that a proposition would be submitted to the Council. Should they refuse the matter will probably be settled in the courts.

REID'S FERRY BRIDGE RECEIVED.—The special commissioners met at Reid's Ferry for the purpose of inspecting the drawbridge there recently constructed by Messrs. Oliver & Johnson. The work proved satisfactory and the bridge was received. Mr. Sam. Carhart made an address giving a history of the structure since 1859, when the ferry system was abolished. During the twenty-seven years it has been built and rebuilt four times and repaired once. A bountiful oyster roast followed the ceremonies.

Rev. J. L. Amis, of Portsmouth, presiding elder, will hold quarterly meeting at Courtland Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. David Turner recently died in Southampton county, aged eighty-four years.

One of his attorneys says that Major Wright is expected to be in Suffolk next Monday.

H. E. Chesnam, ex-representative of the Second Congressional District of North Carolina, to-night delivered an address before the colored literary club in the Pine Street A. M. E. Church.

The telephone connection between Franklin and Courtland has been completed.

Mr. Daniel H. Hatten is again suffering from a painful attack of acute rheumatism.

Mrs. Bailey, of New York, recently lectured before a society at Herea Christian Church in this county.

Miss Anna Elam is in Richmond visiting her sister, Mrs. Charles M. Howell.

Mr. L. S. Savage, recently of Harrell's Neck, has removed to Washington, D. C., for the practice of his profession.

Revival services in the Main Street Methodist Church are growing in interest and the crowds attending are increasing.

Miss Julia Phillips has returned from a visit to friends in Halifax, N. C.

U. S. Boykin & Co. have added the Greenwich, New York, to their list of fire companies.

NEWPORT NEWS.

ADJOURNED MEETING HELD.

The New Council Holds a Lengthy and Important Session.

Newport News, Va., March 12.—(Special.)—IN THE COURTS YESTERDAY.—Hustings Court, Judge Barham, presiding. No cases were called in this court, either in the forenoon or afternoon. A venire return was issued summoning a special grand jury for next Wednesday.

The seal adopted for the Corporation Court of the city of Newport News consists of a metallic disc, two inches in diameter, with plain border. In the center of the disc is represented a full rigged ship, between which and the border is a circular inscription, "Corporation Court of the city of Newport News." It is ordered that a copy of the seal be certified to the Governor.

POLICE COURT.—Henry Gilpin, drunk, \$2.75.

The first warrant for the violation of a city ordinance was issued to-day for Warren Jones for fast driving on the road of D. S. Jones.

Robert Glick, who was released from jail on the application of Mr. Henly, of New York, was taken to Norfolk yesterday.

At an adjourned meeting of the Common Council Thursday night the following business was transacted:

The voting places in the Sixth and Seventh Wards not being named at the previous meeting were first taken up. M. R. Hermann's store, corner Thirty-third and Lafayette avenues, was designated as the voting place of the Sixth and Seventh Wards.

A letter from John E. Massey, Superintendent of Public Instruction, who advised that no steps be taken looking to the organization of a new school board for the city of Newport News for the present.

Mr. O'Donnell reported that coal was needed for the purpose of heating the Courthouse and jail and stated that Mr. Courtney, who had furnished the county coal for the same purpose at \$5.95 per ton, and has a contract to furnish 8 mill mull next November, desired to be allowed to supply this contract with the city.

It was decided, however, to let it out by contract to the lowest bidder, the clerk to inform the dealers that bids will be received at 10 o'clock Tuesday, and to order four tons from Mr. Courtney for use until a contract can be made.

The bill of the Peninsula Electric Light and Power Company, for wiring the Courthouse, for seven incandescent lights, \$25, was ordered paid. The same company's bill of \$184, for one month's street lights, was, by request of Mr. Hillyer, returned for correction.

Philips & Marston's bill of \$25, for stationery for Auditor's office, was ordered paid.

Bill of the Daily Press, of \$2.50 for letter heads, was ordered paid.

Bill of \$7.75 for books for the office of the Chief of Police was ordered paid.

About \$150 being turned over a few days ago to the Police Commissioners, it

was ordered to be turned into the treasury.

The motion of Mr. Robinson, to the effect that no bills be entertained unless properly certified, was carried.

It was moved by Mr. C. C. Perkins and seconded by Mr. Willett that all accounts be presented to the Auditor for inspection and upon his finding them void of clerical errors, to present the same to the Council for approval before issuing his warrant for payment. Motion carried.

It was decided to retain the poor-house at its present site, in the county, and Mr. R. G. Conno was elected superintendent of the city's poor, at a salary of \$15 per month.

Dr. John A. Young was unanimously elected physician to the poor-house; salary \$100 per annum.

The Superintendent of the Almshouse was instructed to ask for bids for necessaries until July 1st.

On motion of Mr. Robinson the Superintendent was allowed \$5 per month for a cook.

Mr. B. Wright was elected overseer of the poor.

The Light Committee made a report in writing recommending that a contract be made with the Peninsula Electric Light and Power Company, reducing the time from five to three years, and reducing the price of each lamp from \$8 a month to \$7.50 a month, when the number of lamps in use shall have increased to fifty.

The committee's report included a proposition from the electric light company, one of the principal features of which provided that the Council shall have the right at any time during the life of the contract to replace one-half of the lamps with incandescent lamps alternating with the electric lights.

After a long discussion on this particular part of the proposed contract, some of the Councilmen heter of the opinion that the Council should reserve it as a privilege to name the points where the gas lights should be substituted, the majority, however, approving of the proposition as presented.

Mr. E. C. Hillyer, manager of the electric light company, and Colonel Carter M. Braxton, in the interests of the chartered gas company, addressed the Council in connection with the report of the Light Committee.

Mr. O'Donnell moved that the proposition be accepted, legally drawn up in the form of a contract and presented to the Council at its next meeting for ratification. Adopted by a vote of 9 to 2.

John M. Deberry, Humber, and others voting in the electric light company, Messrs. Jones and Long did not vote.

PERSONAL.—Officer William Haley, of the Police force, resigned yesterday. This case came up for hearing before the Police Commissioners last night, the object of which has not been learned.

Haley was charged with voluntarily leaving his beat in the night time, and being found in various bar-rooms, etc.

Robert W. Downing, comptroller of the Pennsylvania railway, his wife, three children, and five servants, in their private car, went through our city yesterday on their way from Old Point to Philadelphia.

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THOMAS S. POWELL, M.D., President Southern Medical College, Atlanta, Ga.

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